

THE REFUGEES

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

Author of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"

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"What is so dull as an amusement which has ceased to amuse? I know not how it is. When I was but a lad, and my mother and I were driven from place to place, with the Fronde at war with us and Paris in revolt, with our throne and even our lives in danger, all life seemed to be so bright, so new and so full of interest. Now that there is no shadow and that my voice is the first in France, as France's is in Europe, all is dull and lacking in flavor.



He bowed profoundly three times.

What use is it to have all pleasure before me when it turns to wormwood when it is tasted?

"True pleasure, sire, lies rather in the inward life, the serene mind, the easy conscience. And, then, as we grow older it is not natural that our minds should take a graver bent? We might well reproach ourselves if it were not so, for it would show that we had not learned the lesson of life."

"It may be so, and yet it is sad and weary when nothing amuses. Who is that knocking?" asked the king.

"It is my companion," said Madame. "What is it, mademoiselle?"

"M. Cornille, to read to the king," said the young lady, opening the door.

"Ah, yes, sire; I know how foolish is a woman's tongue, and so I have brought a wiser one than mine here to charm you. M. Ractue was to have come, but I hear that he has had a fall from his horse, and he sends his friend in his place. Shall I admit him?"

"Oh, as you like, madame, as you like," said the king listlessly. At a sign from Mlle. Nanon a little peaky man with a shrewd, petulant face and long gray hair falling back over his shoulders entered the room. He bowed profoundly three times and then seated himself nervously on the very edge of the stool, from which the lady had removed her workbasket.

"Shall it be a comedy, or a tragedy, or a burlesque pastoral?" Cornille asked timidly. "There is my 'Pretended Astrologer.'"

"Yes, that will do."

Cornille commenced to read his comedy, while Mlle. de Maintenon's white and delicate fingers picked among the many colored silks which she was weaving into her tapestry. From time to time she glanced across, first at the clock and then at the king, who was leaning back, with his lace handkerchief thrown over his face. It was twenty minutes to four now, but she knew that she had put it back half an hour and that the true time was ten minutes past.

"Tut, tut!" cried the king suddenly. "There is something amiss there. The second last line has a hump in it surely." It was one of his foibles to pose as a critic, and the wise poet would fall in with his corrections, however unreasonable they might be.

"Your majesty is perfectly right," said Cornille unblushingly. "I shall mark the passage and see that it is corrected." He picked up his book again and was about to resume his reading when the king said:

"M. Cornille, I am obliged to you for what you have read, and I regret that I must now interrupt your comedy. Some other day perhaps I may have the pleasure of hearing the rest of it." He smiled in the gracious fashion which made all who came within his personal influence forget his faults and remember him only as the impersonation of dignity and of courtesy.

The poet, with his book under his arm, slipped out, while his majesty said to Madame:

"I see by your clock that it is 4 o'clock. I must go."

"My clock, sire, is half an hour slow."

"Half an hour!" The king looked dismayed for an instant and then began to laugh. "Nay, in that case," said he, "I had best remain where I am, for it is too late to go, and I can say with a clear conscience that it was the clock's fault rather than mine."

"I trust that it was nothing of very great importance, sire," said the lady, with a look of demure triumph in her eyes.

"By no means."

"No state affair?"

"No, no; it was only that it was the hour at which I had intended to rebuke the conduct of a presumptuous person. But perhaps it is better as it is. My

absence will in itself convey my message and in such a sort that I trust I may never see that person's face more at my court. But, ah, what is this?"

The door had been flung open, and Mlle. de Montespan, beautiful and furious, was standing before them.

CHAPTER VII.

Mlle. de MONTESPAN was a woman who was always full of self-restraint and of cool resource. With a frank smile

greeting she advanced with outstretched hand.

"This is indeed a pleasure," said she. But Mlle. de Montespan was very angry, so angry that she was evidently making strong efforts to keep herself within control and to avoid breaking into a furious outburst. She regarded her rival's outstretched hand and turned toward the king, who had been looking at her with a darkening face.

"I fear that I intrude, sire."

"Your entrance, madame, is certainly somewhat abrupt."

"I must crave pardon if it is so. Since this lady has been the governess of my children I have been in the habit of coming into her room unannounced."

"As far as I am concerned, you are most welcome to do so," said her rival, with perfect composure.

"I confess that I had not even thought it necessary to ask your permission, madame," the other answered coldly.

"Then you shall certainly do so in the future, madame," said the king sternly. "It is my express order to you that every possible respect is to be shown in every way to this lady."

"Oh, to this lady!" with a wave of her hand in her direction. "Your majesty's commands are of course our laws. But I must remember that it is this lady, for sometimes one may get confused as to which name it is that your majesty has picked out for honor."

She was superb in her pride and her ferocity as she stood, with her sparkling blue eyes and her heaving bosom, looking down upon her royal lover. Angry as he was, his gaze lost something of its sternness as it rested upon her round full throat and the delicate lines of her shapely shoulders.

"There is nothing to be gained, madame, by being insolent," said he.

"Truth is always mistaken for insolence, sire, at the court of France."

"You forget yourself, madame. I beg that you will leave the room."

"I must first remind your majesty that I was so far honored as to have an appointment this afternoon. At 4 o'clock I had your royal promise that you would come to me. I cannot doubt that your majesty will keep that promise in spite of the fascinations which you may find here."

"I should have come, madame, but the clock, as you may observe, is half an hour slow, and the time had passed before I was aware of it."

"I beg, sire, that you will not let that distress you. I am returning to my chamber, and 5 o'clock will suit me as well as 4."

"I thank you, madame, but I have not found this interview so pleasant that I should seek another."

"Then your majesty will break your word?"

"Silence, madame! This is intolerable!"

"It is indeed intolerable!" cried the angry lady, throwing all discretion to the winds. "Oh, I am not afraid of you, sire. I have loved you, but I have never feared you. I leave you here, I leave you with your conscience and your—your lady confessor. But one word of truth you shall hear before I go. You have been false to your wife, and you have been false to your mistress, but it is only now that I find that you can be false also to your word."

She swept him an indignant courtesy and glided with head erect out of the room.

The king sprang from his chair as if he had been stung. Accustomed as he was to his gentle little wife and the even gentler La Valliere, such language as this had never before intruded itself upon the royal ears. And then his whole soul rose up in anger at her, at the woman who had dared to raise her voice against him. He gave an inarticulate cry of rage and rushed to the door.

"Sire!" Mlle. de Maintenon, who had watched keenly the swift play of his emotions over his expressive face, took two quick steps forward and laid her hand upon his arm.

"I will go after her."

"And why, sire?"

"To forbid her the court."

"You heard her! It is infamous! I shall go."

"But, sire, could you not write?"

"No, no; I shall see her." He pulled open the door.

"Oh, sire, be firm, then!" It was with an anxious face that she watched him start off, walking rapidly, with angry gestures, down the corridor. Then she turned back and, dropping upon her knees on the prie-dieu, bowed her head in prayer for the king, for herself and for France.

De Catinat, the guardsman, had employed himself in showing his young friend from over the water all the wonders of the great palace.

(To be Continued.)

Some men are as anxious to get into the limelight as others are to dodge it.

BAD RECORD MADE FOR DRUNKENNESS

American Army Shows Larger Per Cent Than Any Other.

Army Officers Attribute It to Fact That There Are No Canteens at Ports.

COLORED TROOPS TEMPERATE

Washington, Dec. 11.—The statistics as made up by the surgeon general of the United States show that the percentage of drunkenness in Uncle Sam's army is greater than that of any other country.

The figures given in the annual report of General R. H. O'Reilly, the surgeon general, for the fiscal year 1906, show that out of every 1,000 soldiers 29.65 cases of alcoholism are sent to the hospitals for treatment every year.

As compared with other countries this is a remarkable showing. The British army is next on the list and it shows only 2.1 cases of alcoholism in every 1,000 soldiers. The lowest percentage is that shown by Spain, the figures of which are put at .08 in every 1,000 men.

The average percentage of alcoholism in the United States army for the years 1898 to 1903 was 21.54, showing an increase as given in the last report of 8.11 over the average for the five years previous.

The report also shows that the colored troops are much more temperate than the whites, the latter having a percentage of 28.89, while that of the colored troops is shown to be only 9.01 in every 1,000.

General O'Reilly's Views.

Various opinions are expressed as to the cause of such wide difference between the United States army and those of other countries. General O'Reilly in referring to this particular part of his annual report said:

"I have not gone into the matter very fully and to get at the causes of what appears to be a very unfavorable showing in the United States army as compared to the armies of other countries I would have to go into the records very thoroughly. Generally speaking, however, I am of the opinion as are also a number of other army officers, that the abolishment of the canteen is in part responsible for the increase shown in the past few years."

KITTEES FOR PRESIDENT.

Woman Wills Them and Tries to Commit Suicide.

New York, Dec. 11.—Lulu B. Grover, aged 45, who describes herself as a magazine writer, was taken to a hospital tonight suffering from chloroform poisoning. Her condition is critical. There is some doubt as to the identity of the woman. The police believe her to be "Mrs. Gove," who just prior to the Roosevelt-Longworth wedding was forced to leave the white house and latter attempted to see the president at Oyster Bay. The police found a letter addressed: "To the coroner or first police officer who finds my body here."

"I beg of you to telephone to President Roosevelt. He will have my body cremated. I have written to him, made my will, all I have is his. He will have everything attended to just as I wish it. He knows where to find everything. Please do not let my poor kittens be frightened or annoyed. President Roosevelt will take them as soon as he receives the letter."

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SPECIAL MESSAGE ABOUT PORTO RICO

(Continued From Page One.)

der the Spanish regime. There were 210,273 tons of sugar exported last year, of the value of \$14,186,319; \$3,555,163 of tobacco, and 28,290,322 pounds of coffee of the value of \$3,481,102. Unfortunately, what used to be Porto Rico's prime crop—coffee—has not shared this prosperity. It has never recovered from the disaster of the hurricane, and moreover, the benefit of throwing open our market to it has not compensated for the loss inflicted by the closing of the markets to it abroad. I call your attention to the accompanying memorial on this subject, of the board of trade of San Juan, and I earnestly hope that some measure will be taken for the benefit of the excellent and high grade Porto Rican coffee.

In addition to delegations from the board of trade and chamber of commerce of San Juan, I also received delegations from the Porto Rican Federation of Labor, and from the Coffee Growers' association.

There is a matter to which I wish to call your special attention, and that is the desirability of conferring full American citizenship upon the people of Porto Rico. I most earnestly hope that this will be done. I can not see how any harm can possibly result from it, and it seems to me a matter of right and justice to the people of Porto Rico. They are loyal, they are glad to be under our flag, they are making rapid progress along the path of orderly liberty. Surely we should show our appreciation of them, our pride in what they have done, and our pleasure in extending recognition for what has thus been done, by granting them full American citizenship.

Under the wise administration of the present governor and council, marked progress has been made in the difficult matter of granting to the people of the island the largest measure of self-government that can with safety be given at the present time. It would have been a very serious mistake to have gone any faster than we have already gone in this direction. The Porto Ricans have complete and absolute autonomy in all their municipal governments, the only power over them possessed by the insular government being that of removing corrupt or incompetent municipal officials. This power has never been exercised save on the clearest proof of corruption or of incompetence—such as to jeopardize the interests of the people of the island; and under such circumstances it has been fearlessly used to the immense benefit of the people. It is not a power with which it would be safe, for the sake of the island itself, to dispense at present. The lower house is absolutely elective, while the upper house is appointive. This scheme is working well; no injustice of any kind results from it, and great benefit to the island, and it should certainly not be changed at this time. The machinery of the elections is administered entirely by the Porto Rican people themselves, the governor and council keeping only such supervision as is necessary in order to insure an orderly election. Any protest as to electoral frauds is settled in the courts. Here again it would not be safe to make any change in the present system. The elections this year were absolutely orderly, unaccompanied by any disturbance; and no protest has been made against the management of the elections, altho three contests are threatened where the majorities were very small and error was claimed; the contests, of course, to be settled in the courts. In short, the governor and council are co-operating with all of the most enlightened and most patriotic of the people of Porto Rico in educating the citizens of the island in the principles of orderly liberty. They are providing a government based upon each citizen's self-respect, and the mutual respect of all citizens; that is, based upon a rigid observance of the principles of justice and honesty. It has not been easy to instill into the minds of people unaccustomed to the exercise of freedom, the two basic principles of our American system; the principle that the majority must rule, and the principle that the minority has rights which must not be disregarded or trampled upon. Yet real progress has been made in having these principles accepted as elementary, as the foundations of successful self-government.

I transmit herewith the report of the governor of Porto Rico, sent to the president thru the secretary of state.

All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the department of war or the department of state. It is a mistake not so to arrange our handling of

these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one, when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another.

In conclusion let me express my admiration for the work done by the congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in connection with its administration, it is but fair to those who devised this law to say that it would be well-nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results.

CITY ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE PAYMENT OF POLE RENTALS OF TELEGRAPH, POSTAL TELEGRAPH, OR TELEPHONE POLES ERECTED, OCCUPYING THE STREETS, ALLEYS, OR PUBLIC GROUND OF THE CITY OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY:

Section 1. That hereafter, every person, firm, company or corporation, doing a telegraph, postal telegraph or telephone business in the city of Paducah, Kentucky, and occupying the streets, alleys and public grounds of, or within the limits of said city of Paducah, Kentucky, with telegraph and telephone poles and wires, shall, as a condition to such further occupancy, pay to the city annually, a rental in the sum of \$2.00, for each of said poles, and this rental shall be paid upon all poles now erected, as well as those hereafter erected.

Sec. 2. That the license to occupy the streets, alleys or public grounds with such poles and wires shall be, and the same is hereby revoked as to any person, firm or corporation that shall fail or neglect for twenty days after the passage of this ordinance, to pay said sum of \$2.00 per pole for the ensuing year, 1907.

Sec. 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication, and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, in so far as they conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

Adopted Dec. 3, 1906.

GEO. O. M'BROOM, President Board of Councilmen.

Adopted Dec. 6, 1906.

O. B. STARKS, President Board of Aldermen.

Approved Dec. 10, 1906.

D. A. YEISER, Mayor.

Attest Dec. 10, 1906.

HENRY BAILY, City Clerk.

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WORMS

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